



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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Portsmouth Man Pleads Guilty to Child Exploitation Offense

(Norfolk, VA) - Charles Lee Brice, age 27, of Portsmouth, pled guilty yesterday to a charge of exploiting a minor by taking sexually explicit photographs of a 14 year-old Tennessee girl and transporting them from Tennessee to Virginia in March 2005. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Cassandra M. Chandler, Special Agent in Charge, Norfolk Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, also announced that sentencing on the charge is scheduled for May 29, 2007 before the United States District Judge Raymond M. Jackson. Brice faces a mandatory minimum term of 15 years in prison, a maximum term of 30 years in prison, and supervised release for up to life after completing his prison sentence.

According to court documents, the case arose from an online undercover investigation into the distribution of child pornography using the file-sharing program "Limewire." On May 23, 2006, the federal agent conducting the investigation was able to obtain copies of child pornography videos and still images through an Internet protocol address later linked with Brice. Agents searched Brice's home pursuant to a warrant on August 2, 2006. During that search, investigators seized a computer containing the sexually explicit photographs of the minor from Tennessee, whom Brice met on the Internet in the spring of 2004, as well as e-mail correspondence between the girl and Brice.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Moore is prosecuting the case for the United States.

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